

VZCZCXRO4715
RR RUEHDT
DE RUEHDT #0026 0340150
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 030150Z FEB 10
FM AMEMBASSY DILI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4692
INFO RUEHDT/AMEMBASSY DILI 4260

UNCLAS DILI 000026

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR M, EAP

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [APER](#) [AMGT](#) [TT](#)
SUBJECT: TIMOR-LESTE: SAME-SEX DOMESTIC PARTNER ACCREDITATION

REF: STATE 788

[¶1.](#) (SBU) In response to reftel demarche, Ambassador Amorim Dias, National Director for Protocol, Consular, and Legal Affairs at the MFA told the DCM in a February 1 meeting that he did not anticipate any problem with the GOTL accrediting same-sex partners of U.S. diplomats assigned to Timor-Leste. Dias noted, in fact, that there have already been one or two precedents for such a course of action within the diplomatic community in Dili. He cautioned, however, that his view is based on his initial personal assessment and is not based on a comprehensive legal analysis of the issue.

[¶2.](#) (SBU) To the best of our knowledge, the decision on accreditation of same-sex partners in Timor-Leste rests solely with the MFA. Permission for same-sex partners to seek local employment may, of course, involve other GOTL agencies.

[¶3.](#) (SBU) Comment: Post believes that there is unlikely to be a major problem with the accreditation of same-sex partners as long as the issue is handled discreetly and below the political radar screen. On the other hand, Timor-Leste is an overwhelmingly Catholic and socially conservative country. Should this issue achieve a higher profile or be publicly discussed, it is quite possible that Catholic Church leaders might intervene and complicate any such accommodation.

KLEMM